

1/6 Radio and Communications Information

Radio and Communications info

With the large number of attendees expected at the rally it is possible phone services may be overwhelmed and unavailable. Radios offer a reliable backup for emergency communication and a means for information to be distributed to many people without knowing their contact info. If you can bring a radio you should.

This bulletin will cover 4 primary radio services CB, FRS/GMRS, MURS and Ham radio. It also focuses on handheld radios (HT) likely to be carried at the rally.

Regardless of the radio service you are using please follow these communication standards:

- Necessary – Ask yourself if radio is the best or only way to communicate your info
- Brief – Be intentional, say what needs to be said, repeat if asked to do so but don't ramble
- Specific – Provide details particularly about locations or hostile actors.
- Safety – Remember radio is not secure anyone tuned to the frequency will hear you be careful what you say. Giving a friend your credit card over the air to order lunch would be a very bad idea.
- Courteous and polite - Radio is a shared service don't be greedy, don't argue - no radio rage

Where to communicate: For CB, FRS/GMRS and MURS we will adopt the AmRRON CH3 project protocol. Only use Channel 3 on your radio for rally related communications. Any communications such as keeping small groups together, sourcing food or arranging transportation etc. should be handled on other channels. Operators with access to multiple services should forward any important info heard on one service to any other services that have not already been updated. Also make sure those around you without radios are made aware as well. These radios (with a few exceptions) operate in Simplex mode meaning that only 1 radio may communicate on a frequency at any given time. Please listen before you transmit to make sure you don't disrupt an important communication.

Amateur repeaters: There are several amateur radio repeaters in the area, these are powerful radios that listen for signals on one frequency then retransmit them on a different frequency. This allows for small handheld radios to communicate across large areas. Access to these is limited to licensed users by law.

Some of you will have radios with access to Amateur radio frequencies including the DC area repeaters. If you are not licensed, please do NOT transmit on the repeater frequencies. Many have questioned who will enforce the FCC rules especially when there are millions of people in the area. The repeater owner is legally required to maintain it in compliance with all FCC regs. The owners do monitor and will turn the repeater off if they become aware of violations. Please be respectful and don't cause us to lose these resources at a critical time.

There is no license requirement to listen to ham radio frequencies. A popular and inexpensive radio that covers FRS/GMRS, MURS and HAM radio is the Baofeng UV5 and its variants. If you have a UV5 or your radio is capable of receiving amateur radio you should add these frequencies to your radio's memory bank:

145.190, 147.045, 147.270, 447.1750, 448.575, 448.8750 Those are the Amateur Repeater output frequencies only. The full details are linked in the Licensed Operators section below.

Radio Programming: Additional frequency information is available here:

- RadioReference.com - look in the Databases tab. Public safety frequencies are also listed.
- Repeaterbook.com - offers frequency information for amateur repeaters organized by state.
- FRS/GMRS frequencies are found here:
https://wiki.radioreference.com/index.php/FRS/GMRS_combined_channel_chart

Programming guides for most popular radios can be found by searching your model number on YouTube

Licensed Operators:

- Please program your radio for the repeaters listed at Repeaterbook
- Please add memories for all the GMRS/FRS and MURS frequencies to your radios so you can listen to traffic and pass it on as necessary.
- Limit use of Analog only repeaters to priority communication, many people are going to be depending on these frequencies for basic info.
- Don't hesitate to put out safety or other information relevant to large numbers of people but keep rag chews off the Analog repeaters.
- Be brief
- Be specific about the location where things are happening
- Remember to follow FCC guidelines
- Please set the time out timer on your gear in case your PTT gets depressed accidentally
- Use Simplex for small group communication
- If you are using a digital mode repeater, make sure any critical info gets out on the Analog repeaters as well.
- If you hear an unlicensed operator on a repeater, please do NOT call attention to it by informing them they need a license to use the repeater.
- Document any intentional interference to legal communications and report to the FCC

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